

## Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 ARA-06 EB-07 OPIC-03 SAM-01 /093 W

----- 065900

R 121520Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3324

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, AO

SUBJECT: US URGED TO REVISE ITS ANGOLA POLICY

1. AT RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT FOR ARTHUR ASHE AND VISITING WCT TENNIS STARS, ALLISON AYIDA (SECRETARY TO THE FMG) TOLD ME THAT USG SHOULD "GET WITH IT" BY CHANGING ITS POLICY TOWARD THE MPLA. I REPLIED WE HAD NOTHING AGAINST THE MPLA PER SE BUT OBJECTED TO MPLA UTILIZATION OF SOVIET AID AND THOUSANDS OF CUBAN MERCENARIES TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION ON THE MAJORITY OF THE ANGOLAN POPULATION.

2. AYIDA SAID FMG BELIEVED THAT IF WE REALLY HAD NOTHING AGAINST THE MPLA, WE WOULD BE ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE WITH THEM, WOULD PERMIT GULF TO RESUME PAYMENTS, WOULD PRESS SOUTH AFRICA TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTHERN ANGOLA, AND WOULD DISCOURAGE ONGOING GUERRILLA WARFARE. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE THE WAY TO ACHIEVE US OBJECTIVES VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS AND PRESERVE  
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FUTURE US INTERESTS IN ANGOLA.

3. AYIDA THEN SAID FMG BELIEVED NIGERIA COULD PROVIDE GO-BETWEEN  
ROLE FOR US IF WE WANTED TO GET INTO TOUCH WITH MPLA. I SAID  
US POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED BUT IF CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD WARRANT I  
ASSUMED THE MPLA WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT DIRECT CONTACTS WITH  
US.

4. COMMENT:

AYIDA, WHO APPEARS CONFIDENT OF HIS TENURE AS ONE OF THE FEW TOP-  
LEVEL HOLDOVERS FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, CLAIMS THAT HIS  
RESPONSIBILITIES ARE PRIMARILY INTERNAL, WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
LEFT TO OTHERS. HE IS WELL CONNECTED AND WELL INFORMED, HOWEVER,  
AND IT IS THUS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE COINCIDENCE AND SIMILARITY  
OF HIS OFFER OF INTERMEDIATION  
WITH THAT MADE BY ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL NIGERIAN  
DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AF.  
EASUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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